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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



THE  
LONG  
GOODBYE!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:  
**PETER PARKER,  
 THE SPECTACULAR  
 SPIDER-MAN**



COLUMBIA-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL HAS STRICT RULES REGARDING VISITORS.

IT USUALLY REQUIRES THEM TO ENTER VIA THE FRONT DOOR... BUT THERE ARE SOME NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS!

I WAS LUCKY TO FIND A FLORIST OPEN THIS EARLY IN THE DAY--

--AND LUCKIER STILL, THAT HE ACCEPTED AN I.O.U.!

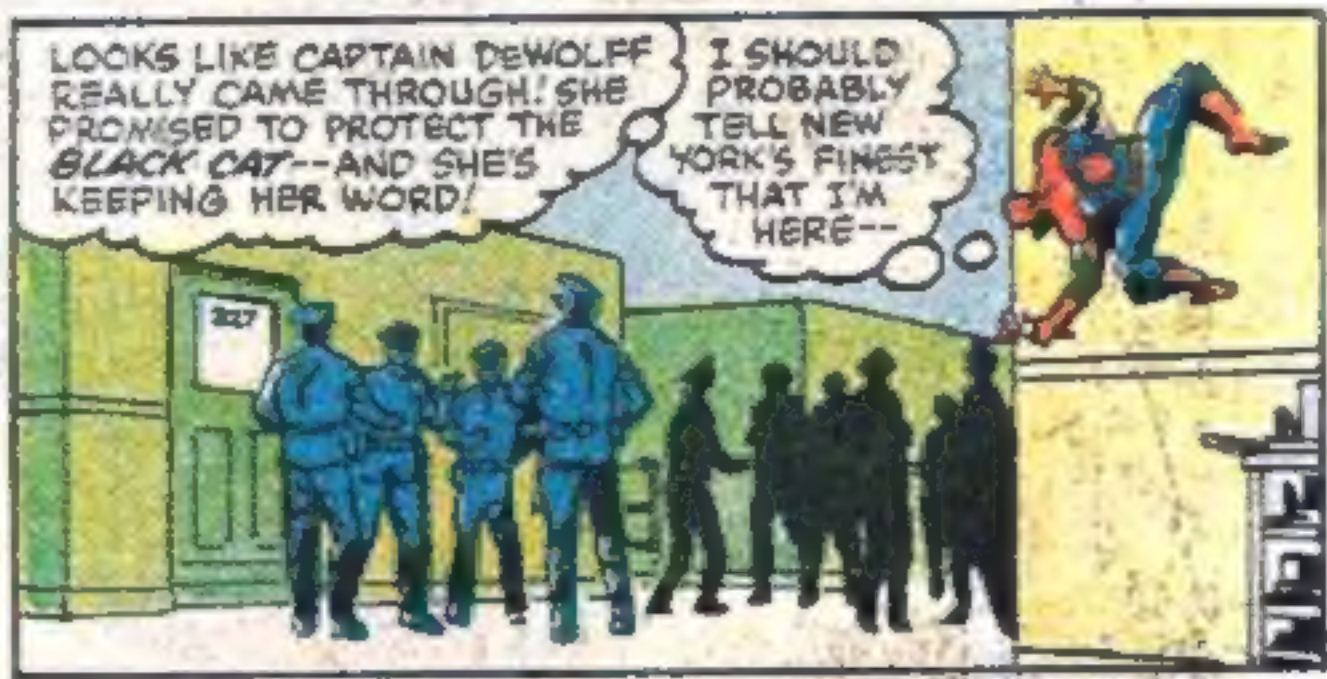
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE DESIGNED A SPIDER-COSTUME WITH A SPARE-CHANGE POCKET!



HALF THE FORCE MUST BE ON DUTY HERE!

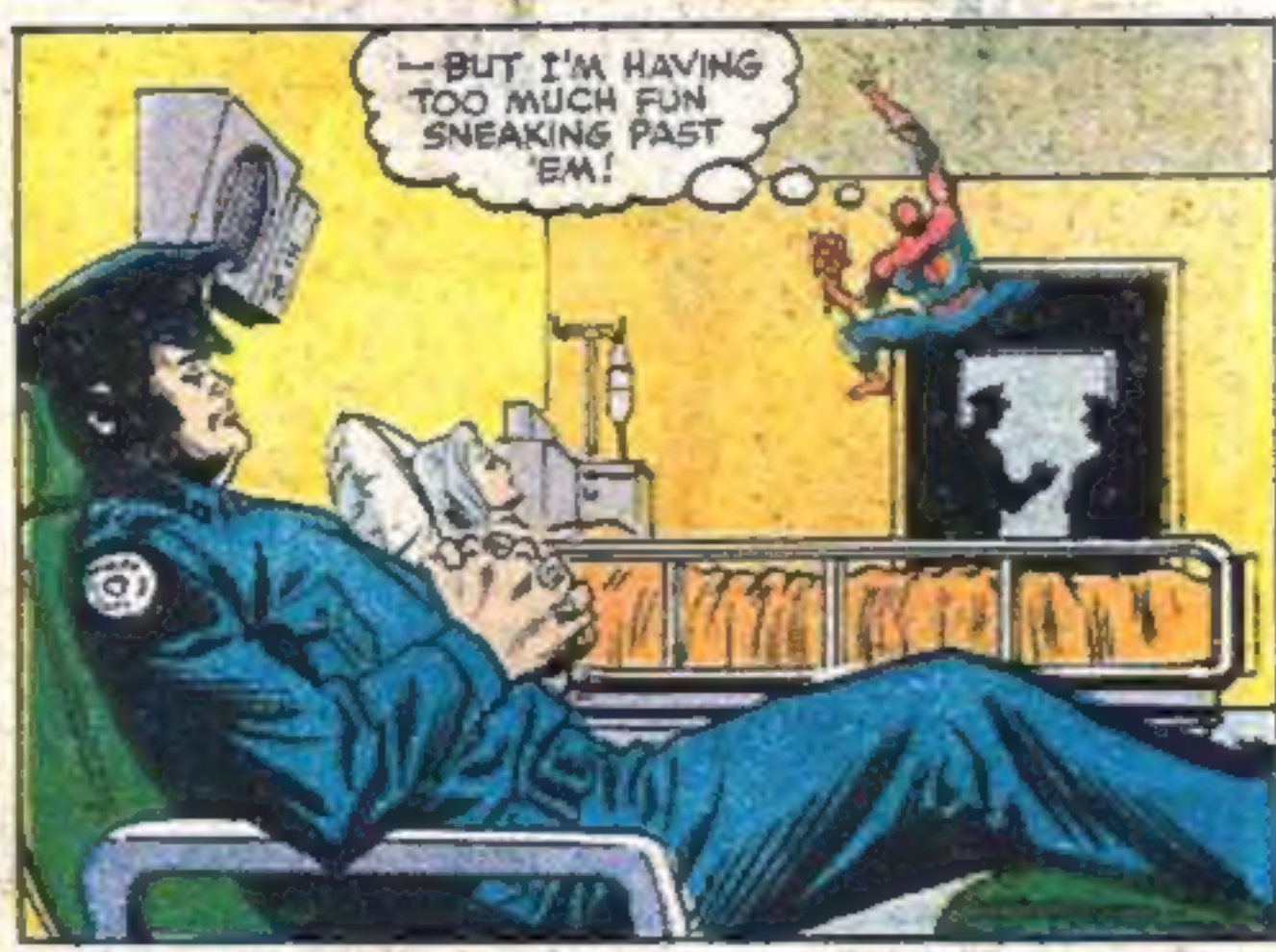
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYONE WOULD BE NUTS ENOUGH TO TRY AND GET PAST US?

NAH!

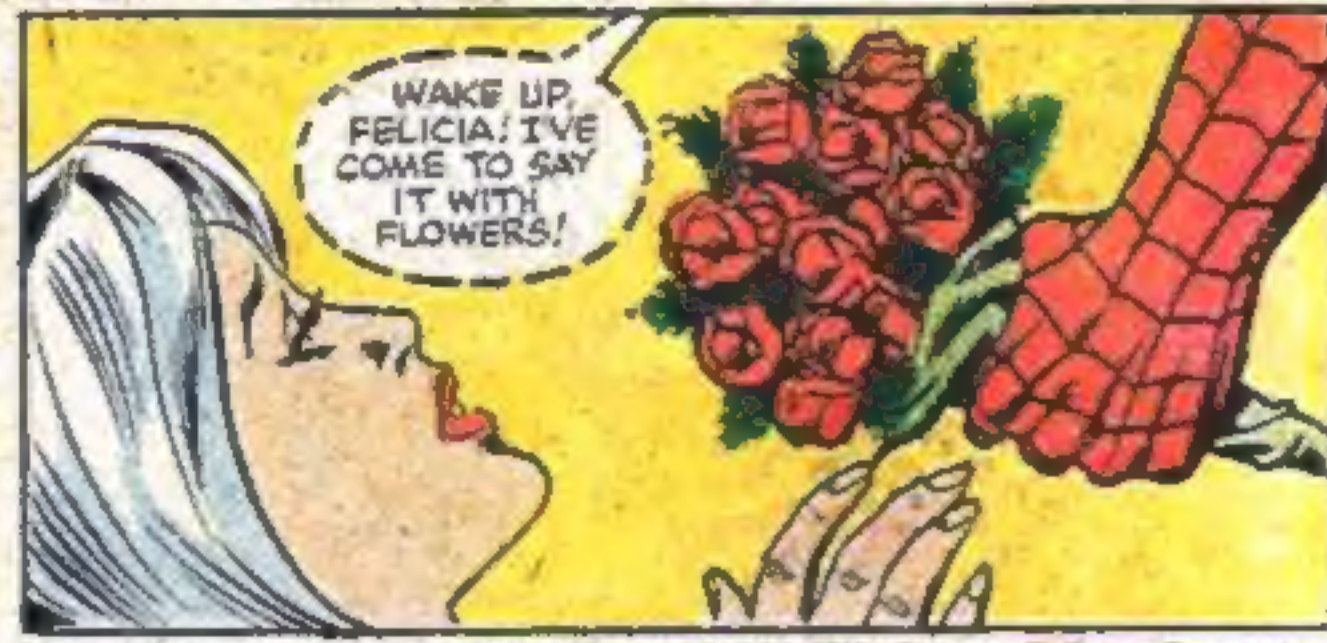


LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN DEWOLFF REALLY CAME THROUGH! SHE PROMISED TO PROTECT THE BLACK CAT--AND SHE'S KEEPING HER WORD!

I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL NEW YORK'S FINEST THAT I'M HERE--



--BUT I'M HAVING TOO MUCH FUN SNEAKING PAST 'EM!



WAKE UP, FELICIA! I'VE COME TO SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!



AT THE SOUND OF  
THE WEB-SLINGER'S  
WHISPERED WORDS,  
CHAOS BURSTS  
LOOSE IN THE BLACK  
CAT'S ROOM!

HI,  
EVERYBODY!  
IT'S THAT LI'L  
OL' ARACHNID...  
*ME!*

# THE LONG GOODBYE!

SOME SECURITY  
SYSTEM YOU'VE SET  
UP HERE, CAP!

**SPIDER-  
MAN!!**



H-HOW'D  
HE SNEAK IN  
HERE!?!

BILL MANTLO    AL MILGROM    JIM MOONEY  
SCRIPT    LAYOUTS    FINISHED ART  
JOE ROSEN, LETTERS    BOB SHAREN, COLORS  
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR    JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





YOU...YOU CHOWDERHEADS! I HANDPICKED YOU FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT WE'RE GUARDING THE **BLACK CAT** AGAINST A **SUPER-VILLAIN**-- SOMEBODY SEVERAL HUNDRED CUTS ABOVE YOUR USUAL SECOND-STORY MAN!



AW, GO EASY ON 'EM, CAPTAIN DEWOLFF! I CAN CRAWL AWFULLY QUIET WHEN I WANT TO!

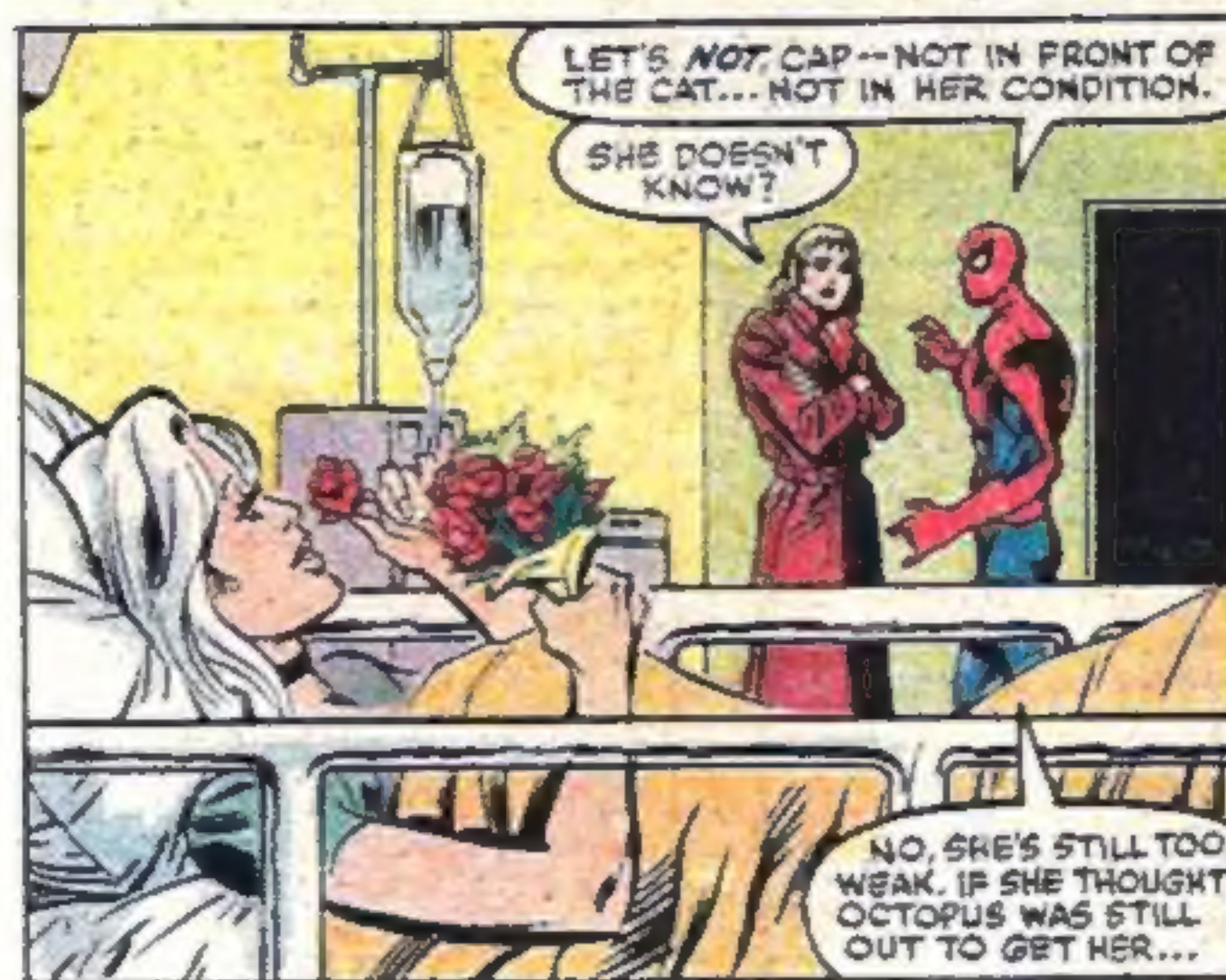
DON'T TELL ME MY BUSINESS, WEB-SLINGER! THEIR CARELESSNESS COULD COST THE **BLACK CAT** HER LIFE!



TOUCHE!

ALL RIGHT! I WANT MY BOYS TO BE READY IN CASE **DOCTOR OCTOPUS** PUTS IN AN APPEARANCE.

SPEAKING OF OCTOPUS...



LET'S NOT, CAP--NOT IN FRONT OF THE CAT... NOT IN HER CONDITION.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW?

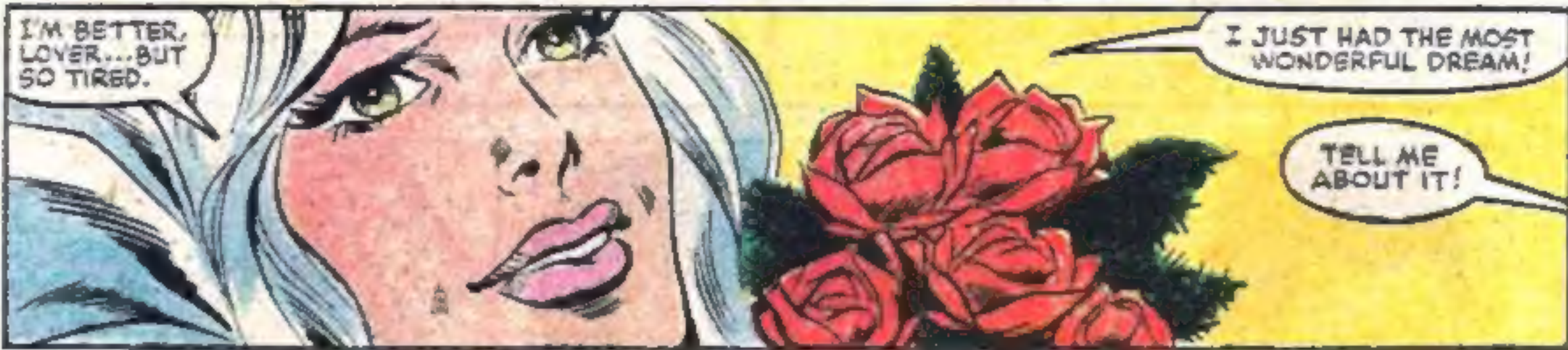
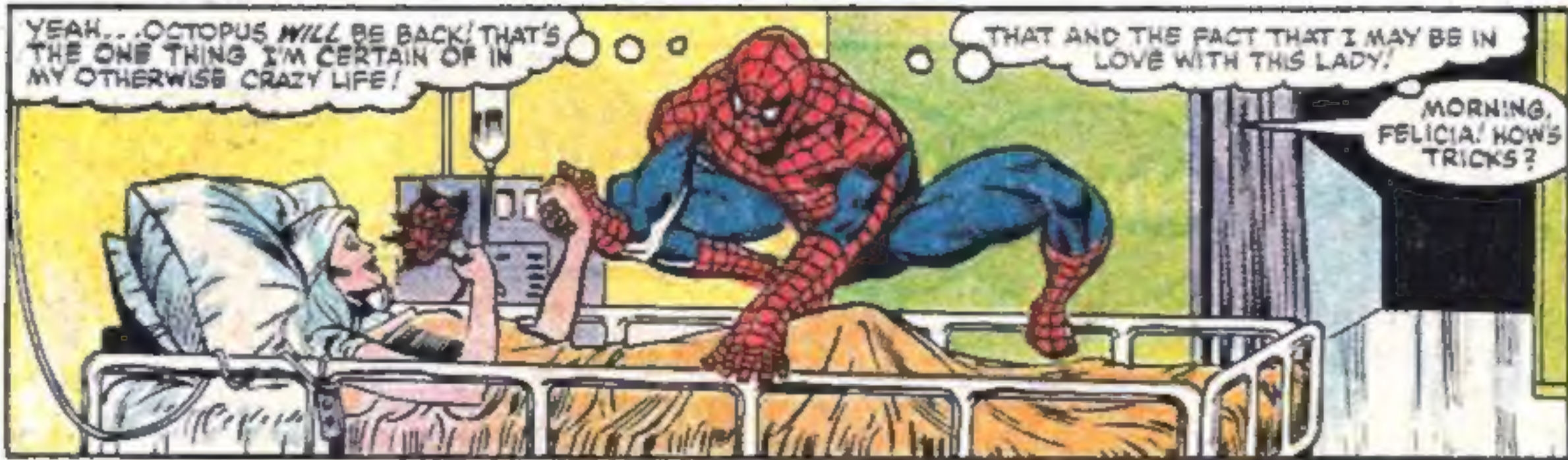
NO, SHE'S STILL TOO WEAK. IF SHE THOUGHT OCTOPUS WAS STILL OUT TO GET HER...



ALL RIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER--WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY... FOR NOW. I JUST HOPE THE SHOCK ISN'T TOO GREAT FOR HER WHEN OCTOPUS DOES COME BACK.

AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT HE WILL!







"I HAD LOVED MY DADDY. I HAD IDOLIZED AND WORSHIPPED HIM MORE THAN ANYONE IN THE WORLD—EXCEPT MAYBE YOU, LOVER! HE WAS A MASTER CAT BURGLAR, AND I BECAME THE **BLACK CAT** TO EMULATE HIM!

"THEN, HE DIED..."



D-DADDY, DOES MY BEING HERE WITH YOU... MEAN THAT I'M DEAD, TOO?

NO, DAUGHTER. IT'S NOT YOUR TIME YET. YOU'RE GETTING ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE!

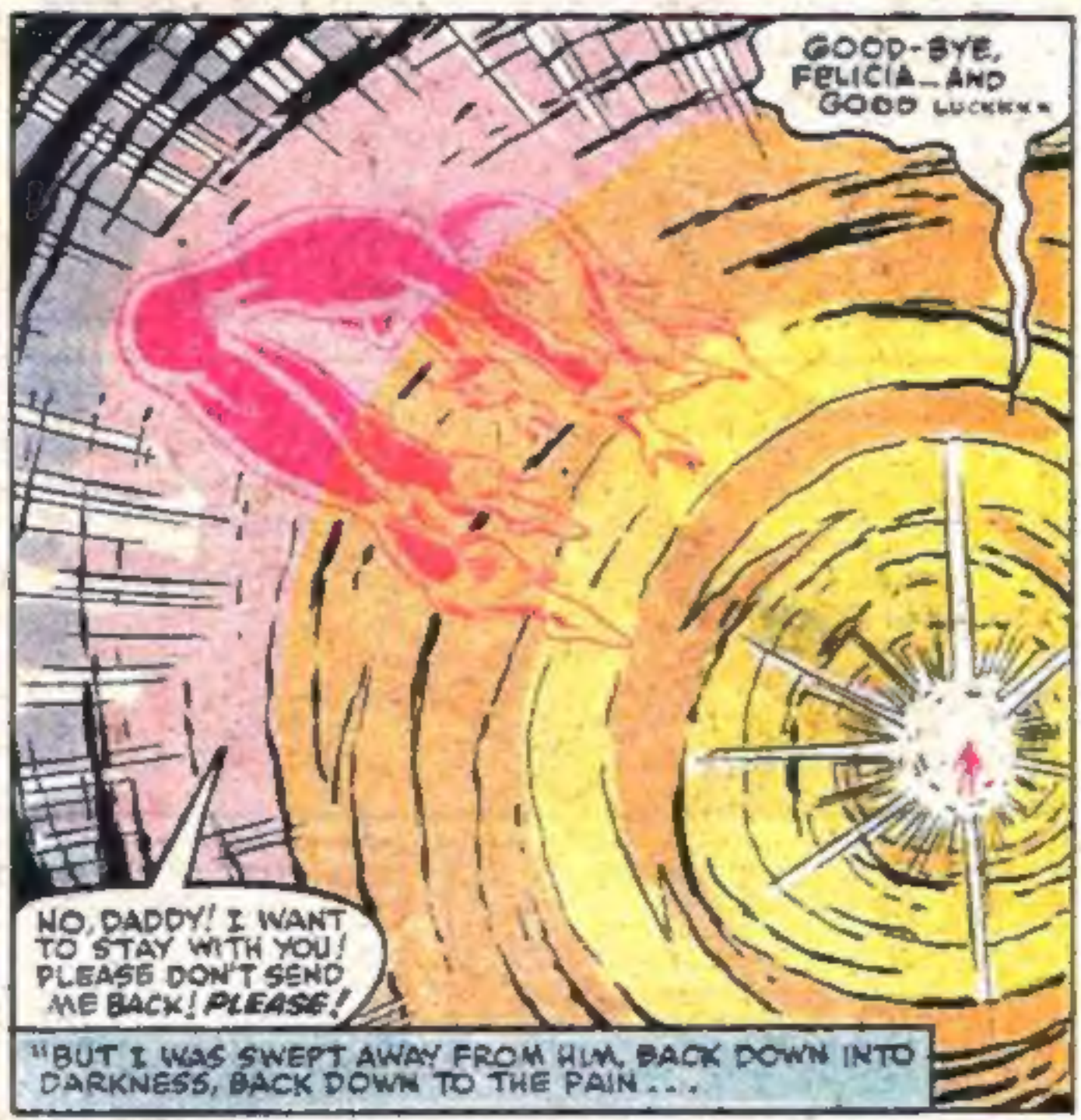
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN!



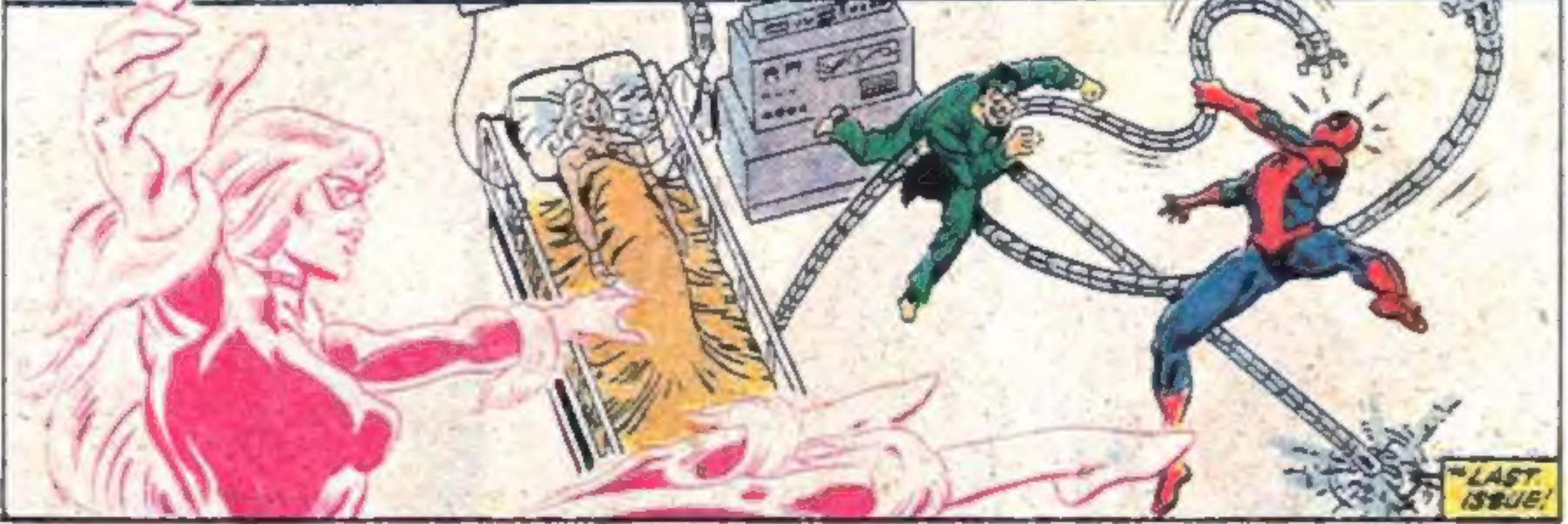
GOOD-BYE, FELICIA... AND GOOD LUCK!!

NO, DADDY! I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU! PLEASE DON'T SEND ME BACK! PLEASE!

"BUT I WAS SWEEPED AWAY FROM HIM, BACK DOWN INTO DARKNESS, BACK DOWN TO THE PAIN..."



"...AND, HOVERING OUTSIDE MY BODY AS IT LAY HEALING IN THE HOSPITAL, I SAW YOU WAGING YOUR DESPERATE BATTLE TO KEEP DR. OCTOPUS FROM HURTING ME AGAIN!" \*



"LAST ISSUE!"

AND I REALIZED DADDY WAS RIGHT! I HAD TO COME BACK--  
--TO WHERE SOMEONE LOVED ME ENOUGH TO RISK HIS LIFE FOR ME!







I HAD TO COME BACK TO YOU, LOVER!

OH, CAT! DON'T EVER EVEN THINK OF LEAVING ME!



I WON'T, LOVER--AND I'M GOING TO TAKE DADDY'S ADVICE... I'M GOING TO GO STRAIGHT! NO MORE CAT BURGLARIES-- NO MORE CRIME!

I'M GOING TO START LIVING SOLELY FOR THE MAN I LOVE!



THERE ARE OTHERS WHO LOVE YOU, FELICIA--WHO ARE OVERJOYED TO HEAR OF THIS CHANGE IN YOU!

MOM!



I'VE BEEN HERE EVERY DAY SINCE YOU WERE HURT, DAUGHTER--CRYING, PRAYING, HOPING YOU'D BE ALL RIGHT--

--AND THAT YOU'D RENOUNCE YOUR FATHER'S CRIMINAL PATH!

I WILL, MOM-- I PROMISE!



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE OUTSIDE CORRIDORS...

DOCTOR OCTOPUS SAID HE'D BE BACK TONIGHT... AND HE'S A MAN WHO KEEPS HIS APPOINTMENTS!

YOUR JOB IS TO GUARD FELICIA UNTIL I RETURN! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!



HEY, CAP'N-- WHO IS HE TO BE GIVING US ORDERS?!

HE'S NEW YORK'S FINEST!



THE MILES ARE MEASURED IN WEB-LENGTHS.  
THE MINUTES ARE MARKED BY MEMORIES...

I'M EXHAUSTED!  
IN THE PAST  
FEW DAYS  
I'VE FOUGHT  
SOME OF MY  
DEADLIEST  
FOES--

DAILY BUGLE

AND ADDED  
A FEW NEW  
ONES LIKE THE  
HOBGOBLIN!

I'VE ALSO TAKEN MY FINALS  
AND SPENT EVERY SPARE  
MINUTE BY FELICIA'S BEDSIDE!



WHICH MEANS MY BANK  
ACCOUNT MUST BE SCRAPING  
BOTTOM! I'VE GOTTA COME  
UP WITH SOME DOUGH--

--AND WHAT BETTER WAY  
THAN TO APPEAL TO THE  
GENEROSITY OF EVERYBODY'S  
FAVORITE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER  
...J. JONAH JAMESON?!



COME ON IN,  
PETE. YOU SAID  
YOU HAD SOME  
PHOTOS--?



SURE DO, ROBBIE! SENSATIONAL  
STUFF! SPIDER-MAN IN ACTION  
AGAINST DOCTOR OCTOPUS.  
THE OWL, THE GLADIATOR,  
AND VERMIN!

THEY'RE SOME  
OF THE BEST PICS  
I'VE EVER TAKEN!  
I ALMOST DIED  
GETTING SOME  
OF THEM...



...AND I WANT  
TOP-DOLLAR--  
CASH--OR I'LL GO  
ELSEWHERE!

WHY YOU YOUNG  
SQUIRT--!



THIS NEWSPAPER MADE  
YOUR REPUTATION, PARKER!  
YOU NEED THE DAILY BUGLE!  
WE DON'T NEED YOU!

NO? YOU'VE GOT SOMEBODY WHO  
TAKES BETTER PICTURES OF  
SPIDER-MAN HIDDEN SOME-  
WHERE? WHO? LANCE BANNON?



BUT MAYBE  
YOU'RE RIGHT!  
MAYBE YOU  
DON'T NEED  
THESE SHOTS!





SO MAYBE I'LL JUST EXPOSE MY FILM TO THE LIGHT AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS!

NO! YOU'LL RUIN EVERY SHOT!

ROBERTSON, IT'S HIGHWAY ROBBERY, BUT PAY THE MAN!



BLACKMAIL! EXTORTION! DURESS! COERCION!

THAT'S THE THANKS I GET AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR THE BOY!

CY, GET READY TO REMAKE PAGE ONE.



YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR FGE AT THE FRONT DESK, PETER.

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHY THE SUDDEN HARD-SELL WITH JONAH?

ROBBIE, MY PICTURES HAVE BEEN HELPING TO SELL THE OLD SKINFLINT'S PAPERS FOR YEARS -- AND YET I ALWAYS HAVE TO HEAR HOW LUCKY I AM TO GET PAID!



LUCK'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! MY PHOTOS ARE GOOD, AND I KNOW IT!

IT'S ABOUT TIME JAMESON STARTED ACKNOWLEDGING THAT FACT!



...AND, IN HIS WAKE, ANY POWELL ENTERS ROBBIE ROBERTSON'S OFFICE.

MR. ROBERTSON, I'M LOOKING FOR PETER PARKER...

THE NEW PETER PARKER JUST LEFT, MR. POWELL!



LATER, AT A NEARBY BANK...

PLEASE DEPOSIT THIS IN MY CHECKING ACCOUNT!



AUNT MAY WILL GET HALF!



I'LL ENJOY THE REST!

TAXI!

THE "NEW" --?

DON'T ASK ME! I JUST WORK HERE!

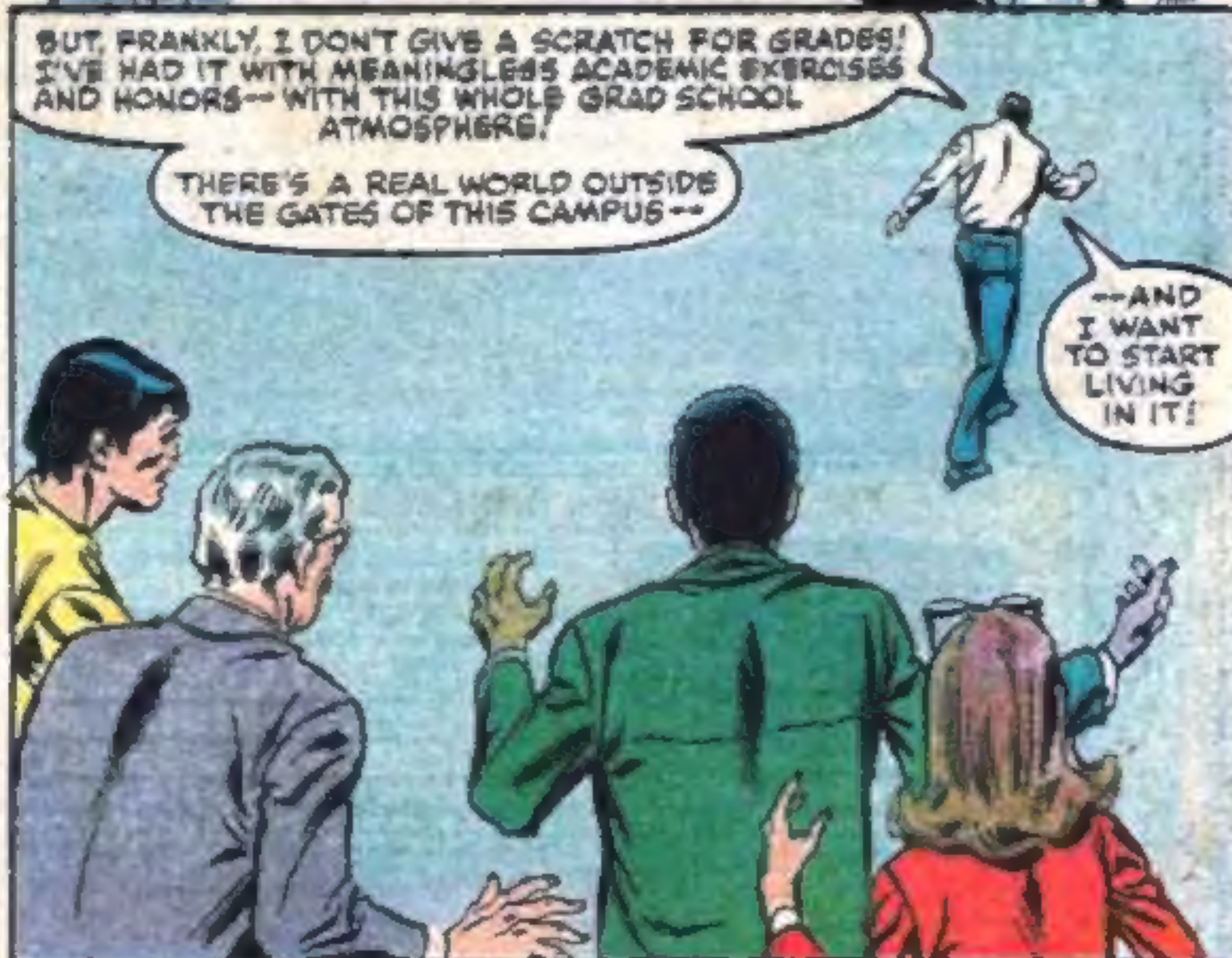
WITH THAT, THE PROUD YOUNG PHOTOJOURNALIST STALKS OUT...



SOON, AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

WHAT LUXURY-- TAKING A CAB ALL THE WAY TO SCHOOL! AND WHY SHOULDN'T I? I'M AN ACE PHOTOGRAPHER! IT'S ABOUT TIME I STARTED GETTING PAID LIKE ONE!

JAMESON HAS ALWAYS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ME BECAUSE HE KNEW I NEEDED THE MONEY! MAYBE IT'S TIME SOME CHANGES WERE MADE!

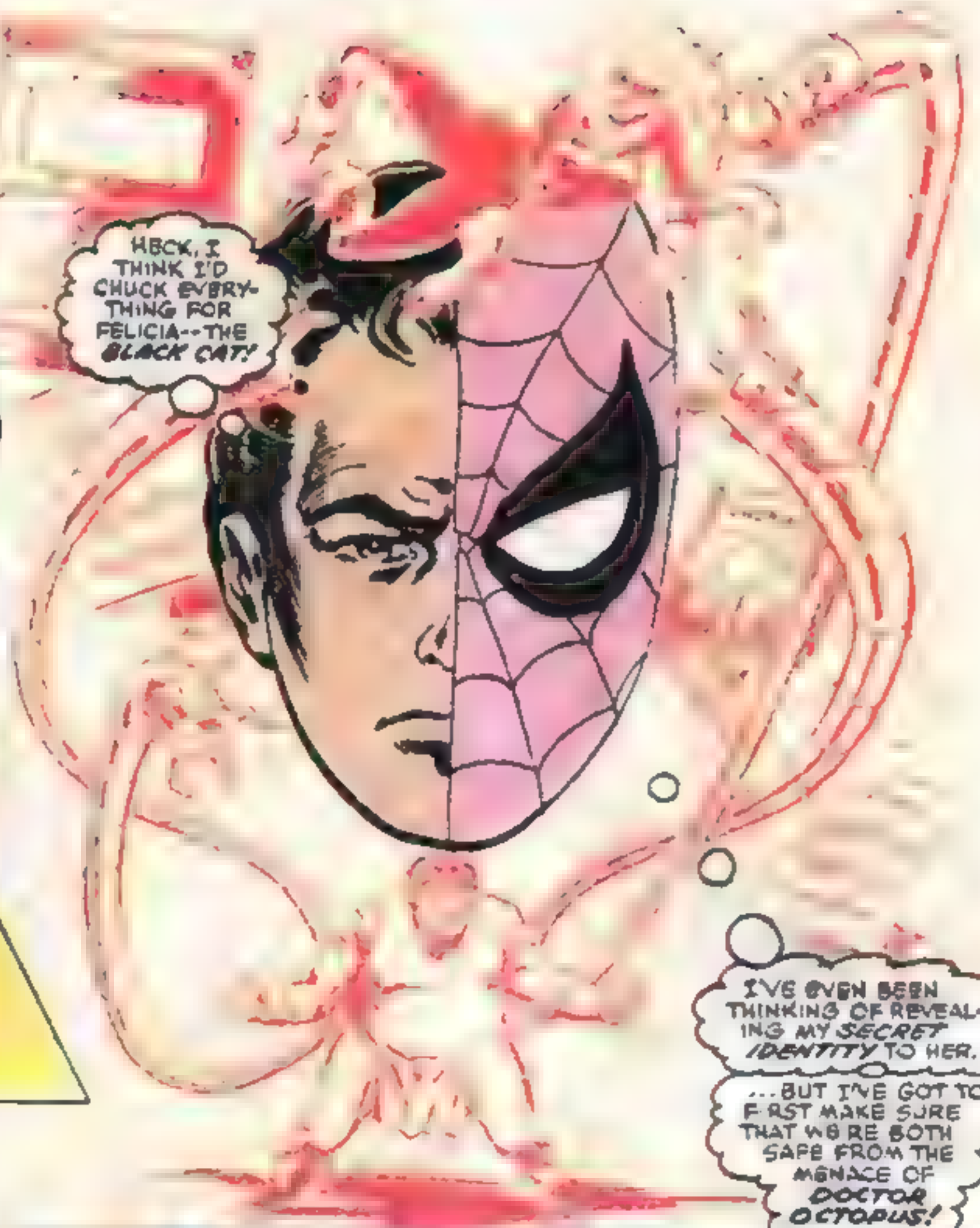




DID I MEAN ALL THAT?  
COULD I REALLY CHUCK  
SCHOOL--ALL MY WORK,  
ALL MY STUDIES, AND  
THE POSSIBILITY  
OF A PHYSICS  
CAREER?



HECK, I  
THINK I'D  
CHUCK EVERY-  
THING FOR  
FELICIA--THE  
BLACK CAT!



I'VE EVEN BEEN  
THINKING OF REVEAL-  
ING MY **SECRET**  
**IDENTITY** TO HER...

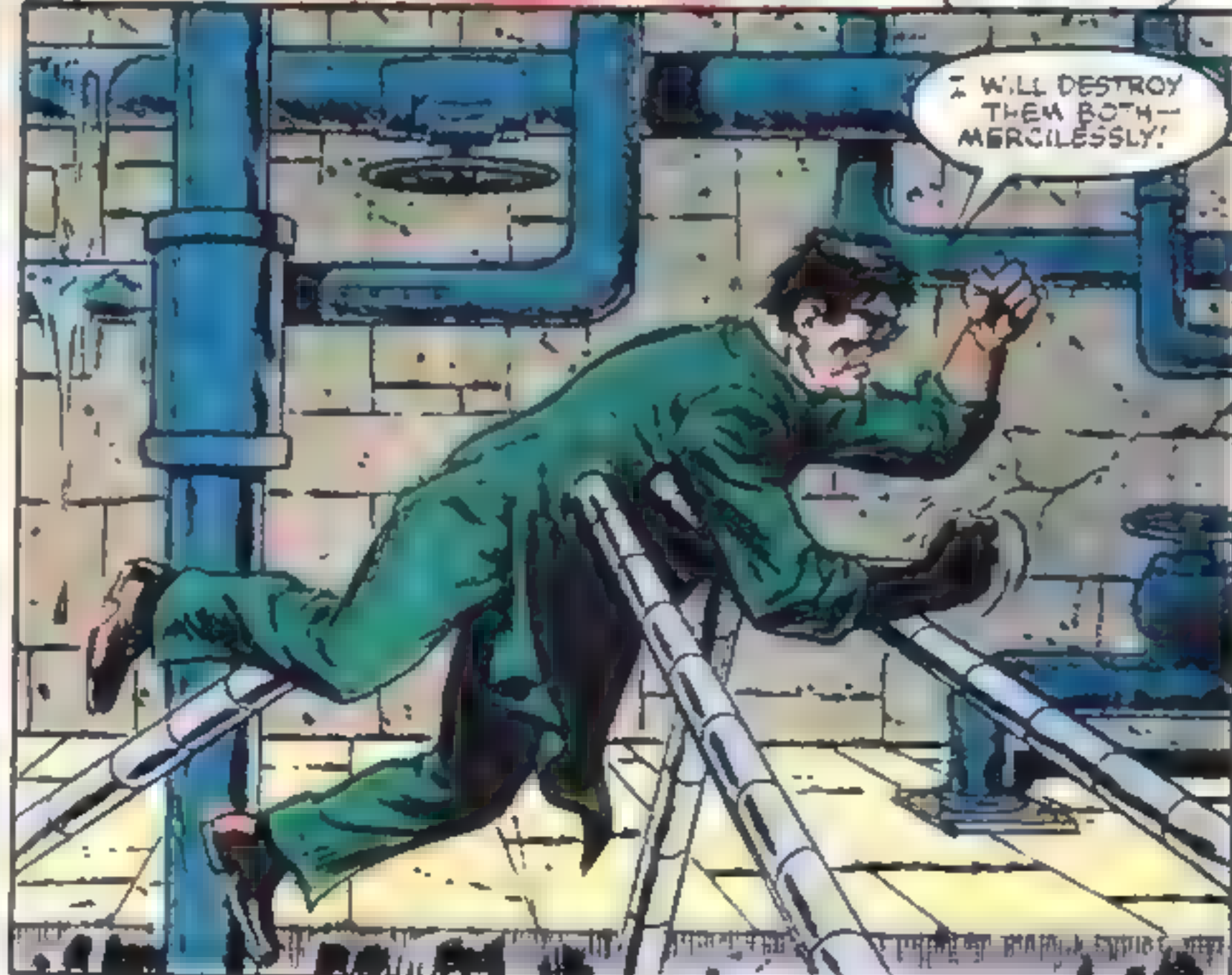
...BUT I'VE GOT TO  
FIRST MAKE SURE  
THAT WE'RE BOTH  
SAFE FROM THE  
MENACE OF  
**DOCTOR**  
**OCTOPUS!**

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN  
THE NEW YORK SEWER SYSTEM...

I WILL  
KILL  
THEM!



I WILL DESTROY  
THEM BOTH--  
MERCILESSLY!







SPIDER-MAN AND HIS BELOVED BLACK CAT HAVE MADE ME SUFFER AS NEVER BEFORE!

THEY BEAT ME -- HUMILIATED ME -- AND EVEN TRIED TO DEPRIVE ME OF MY MECHANICAL ARMS -- BY RIPPING THEM OFF ME!

IT IS THEIR TURN TO SUFFER!



MY ARMS WERE REFORGED -- AND MADE STRONGER -- BEFORE THEY WERE REGRAFTED! THEY -- AND I -- ARE NOW MORE POWERFUL THAN WE EVER WERE BEFORE!

SPIDER-MAN HAS ALWAYS PROVEN HIMSELF A FORMIDABLE FOE -- UNTIL NOW!

THROOM



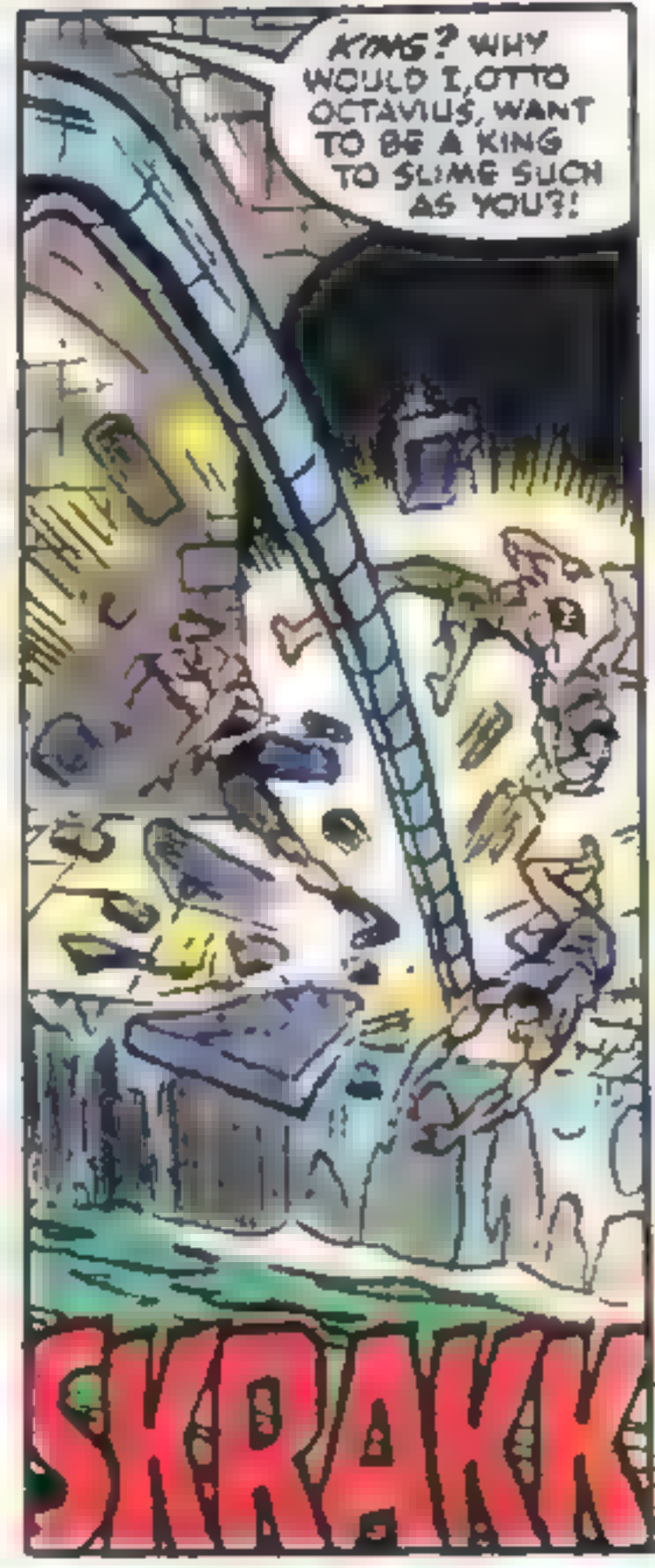
WHAT IS THIS I SEE? DERANGED, DEFORMED CREATURES SHAMBLING FORTH FROM THE SHADOWS!



KING?

KING?

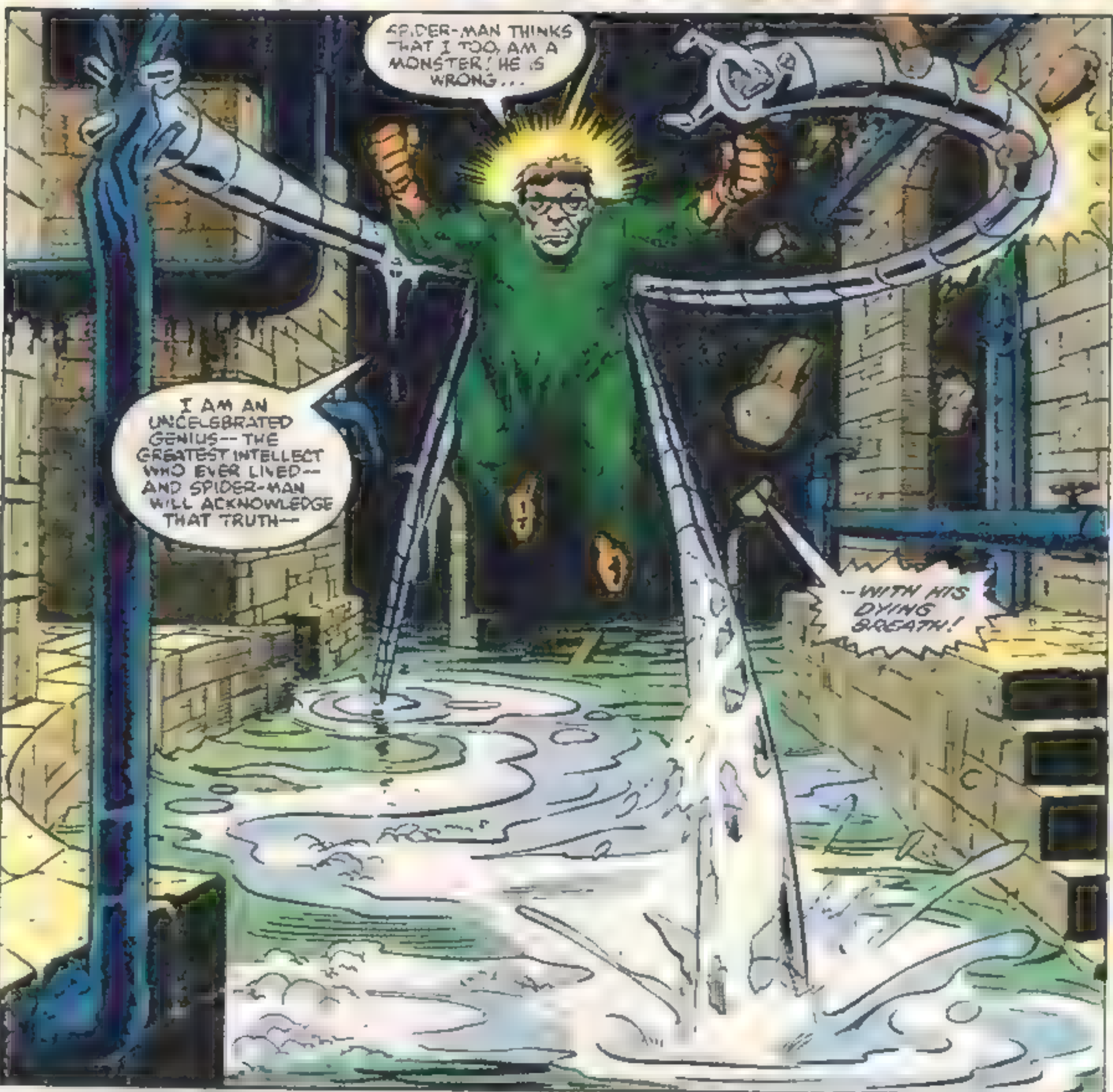
KING IS BACK!!



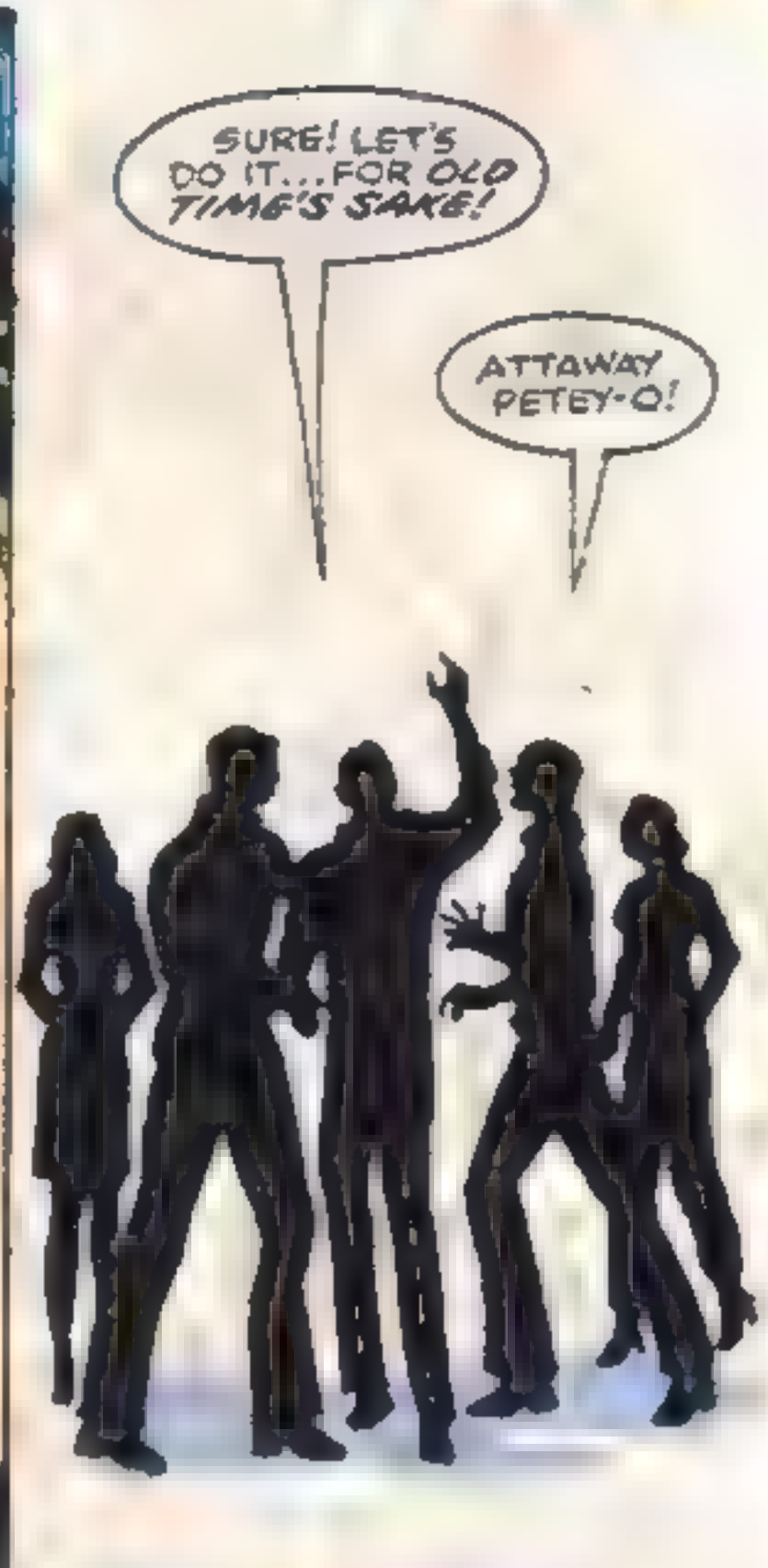
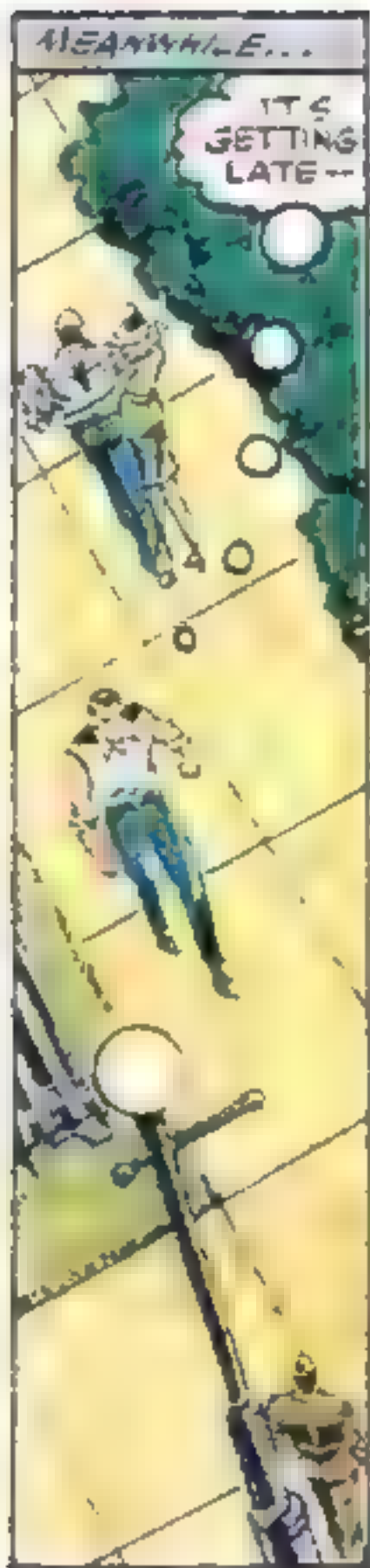
KING? WHY WOULD I, OTTO OCTAVIUS, WANT TO BE A KING TO SLIME SUCH AS YOU?!

SKRAKK



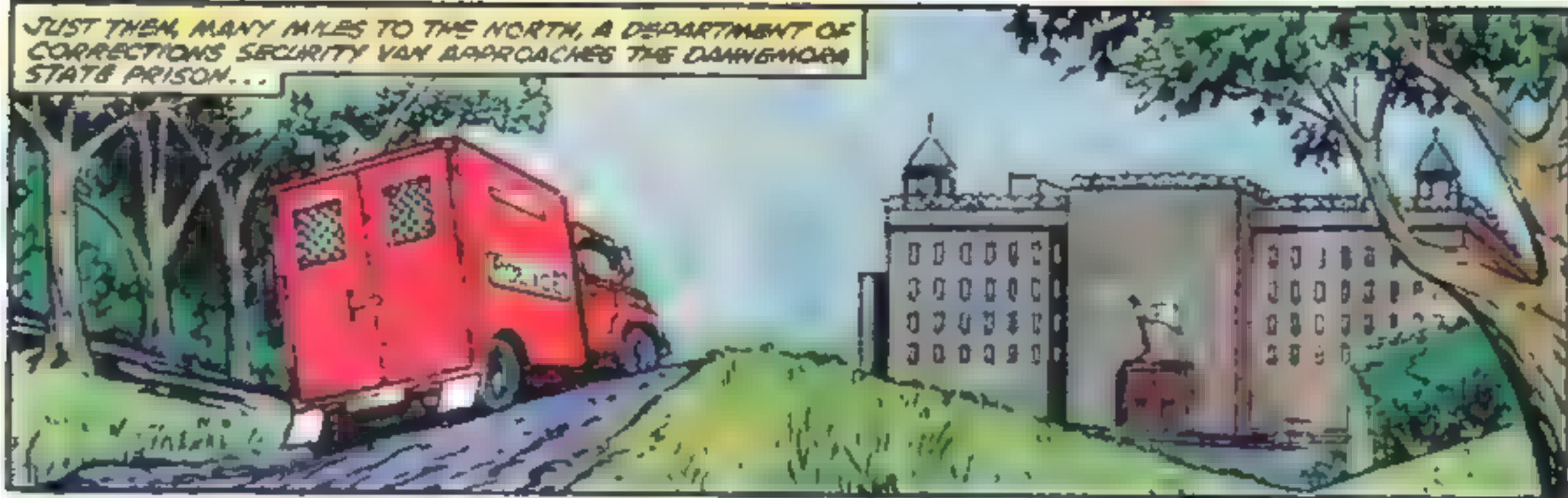








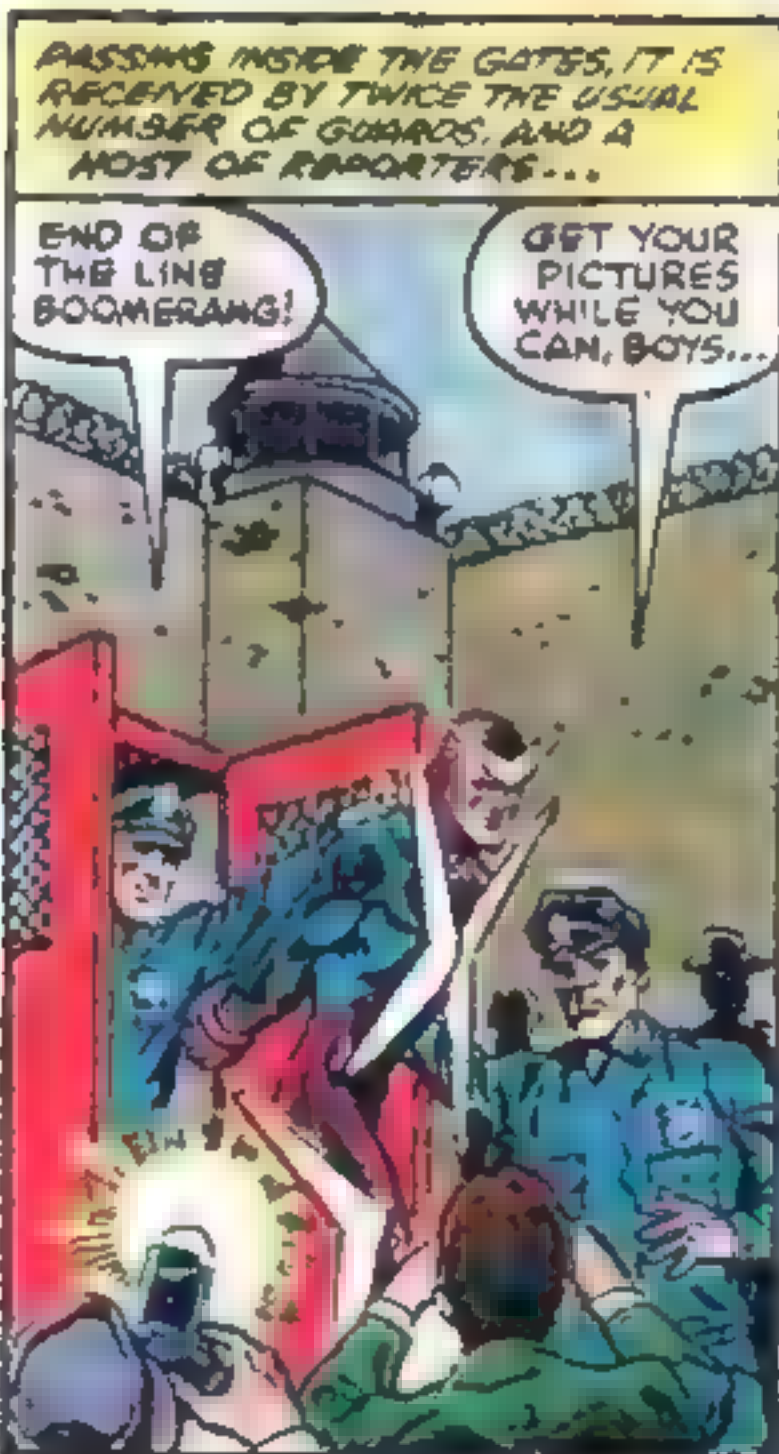
JUST THEN, MANY MILES TO THE NORTH, A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SECURITY VAN APPROACHES THE DANNEMORA STATE PRISON...



PASSING INSIDE THE GATES, IT IS RECEIVED BY TWICE THE USUAL NUMBER OF GUARDS, AND A HOST OF REPORTERS...

END OF THE LINE BOOMERANG!

GET YOUR PICTURES WHILE YOU CAN, BOYS...



WITH THIS PRISON'S SPECIALLY DESIGNED SECURITY SYSTEMS, IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE THE PUBLIC SEES BOOMERANG AGAIN!



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, WARDEN! THERE AIN'T A PRISON STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD ME!



BOOMERANG SHARLS HIS DEFIANCE--

--BEFORE BEING HAULED AWAY...

BIG WORDS, BOOMERANG-- FOR A BOZO WHO NEVER MADE THE BIG TIME!

LAUGH! GO AHEAD! I'LL REMEMBER EVERYONE WHO EVER LAUGHS AT ME!



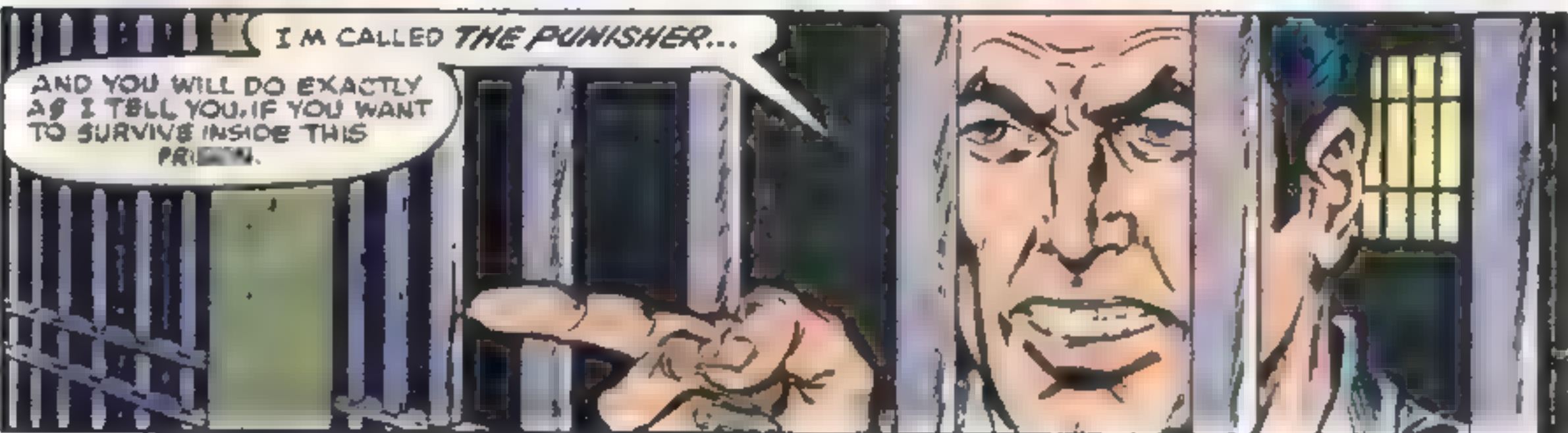
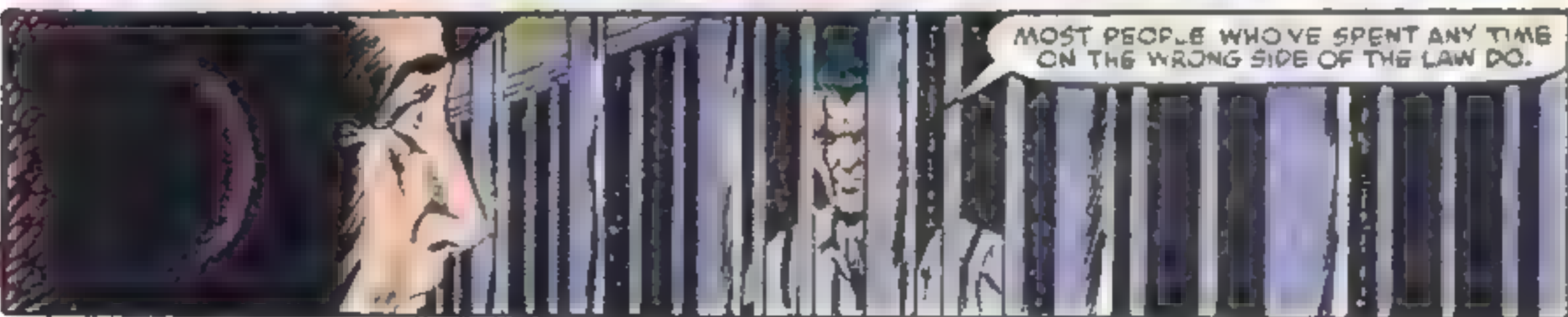
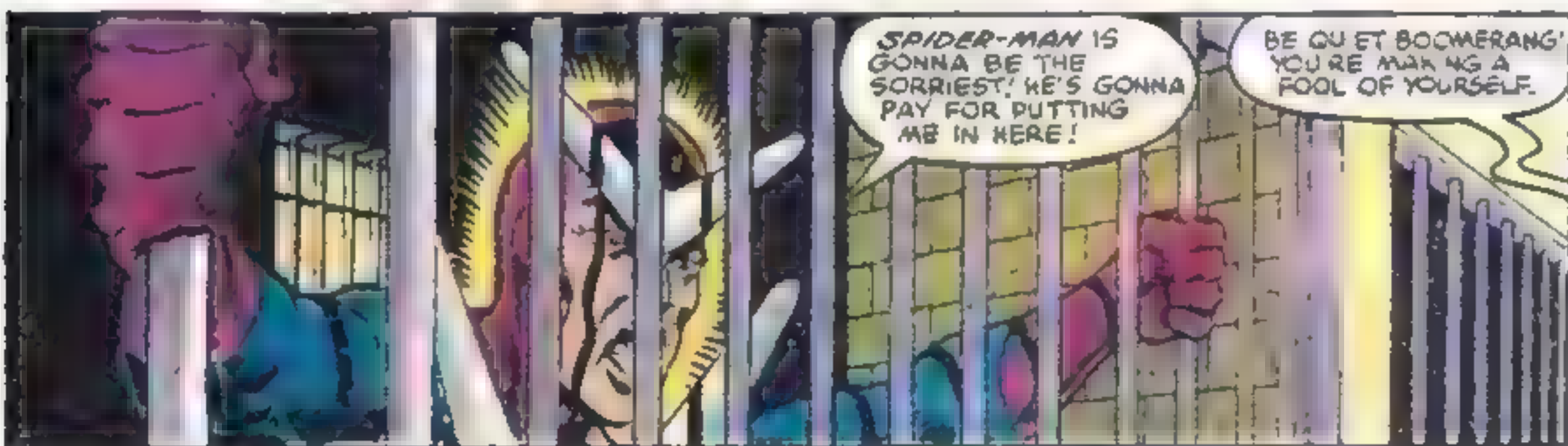
YOU GONNA KEEP A DIARY? YOU'LL HAVE A LOT OF TIME!

MEANWHILE...

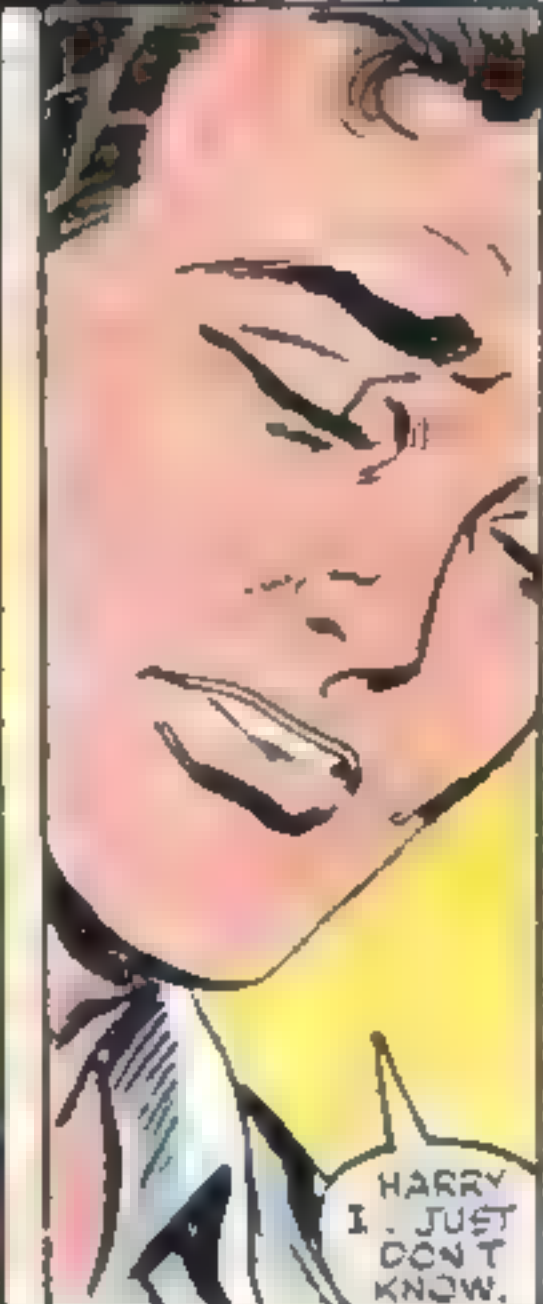
SOON I'LL BE READY FOR THE GREATEST BATTLE OF MY CAREER!



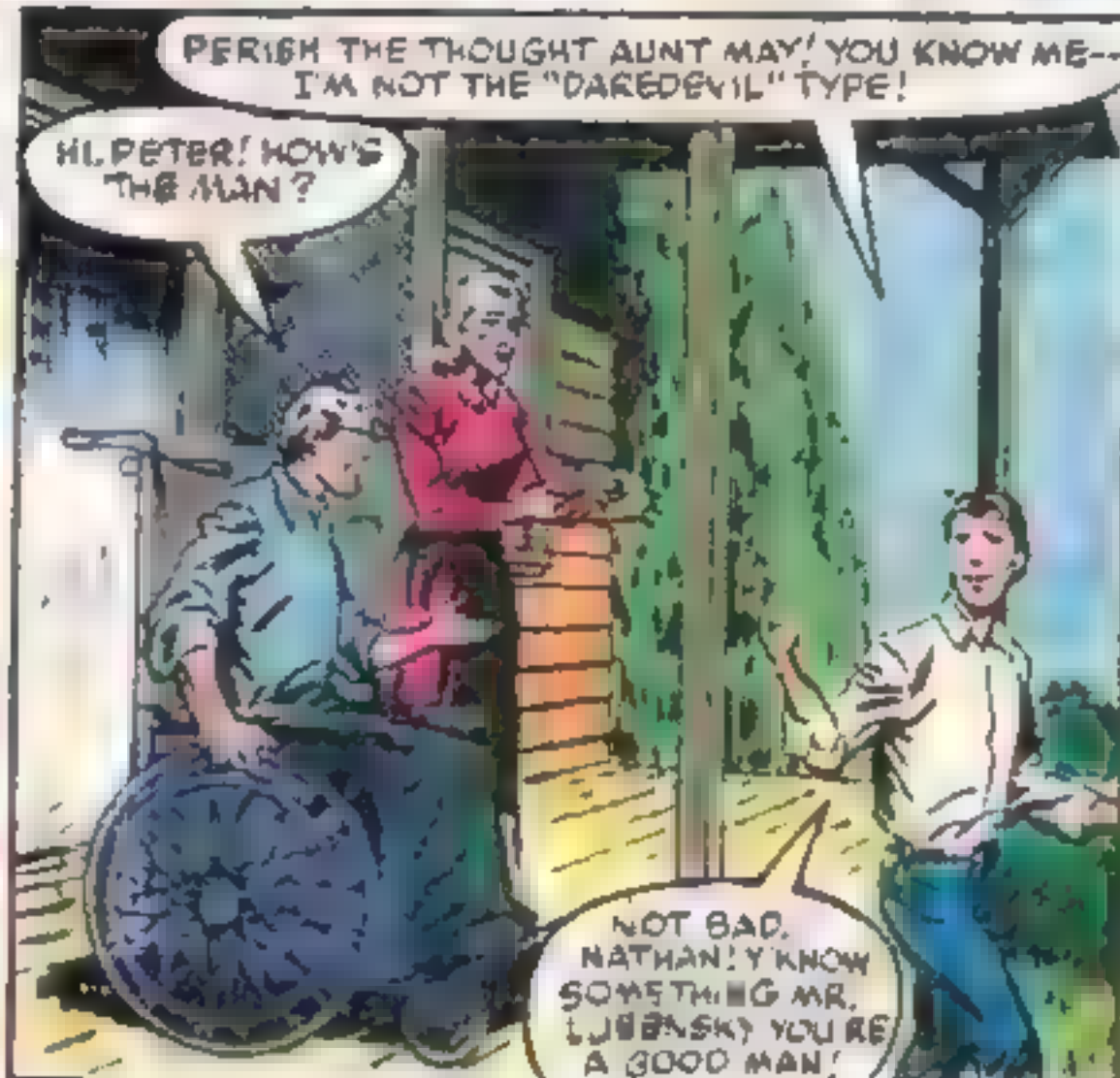
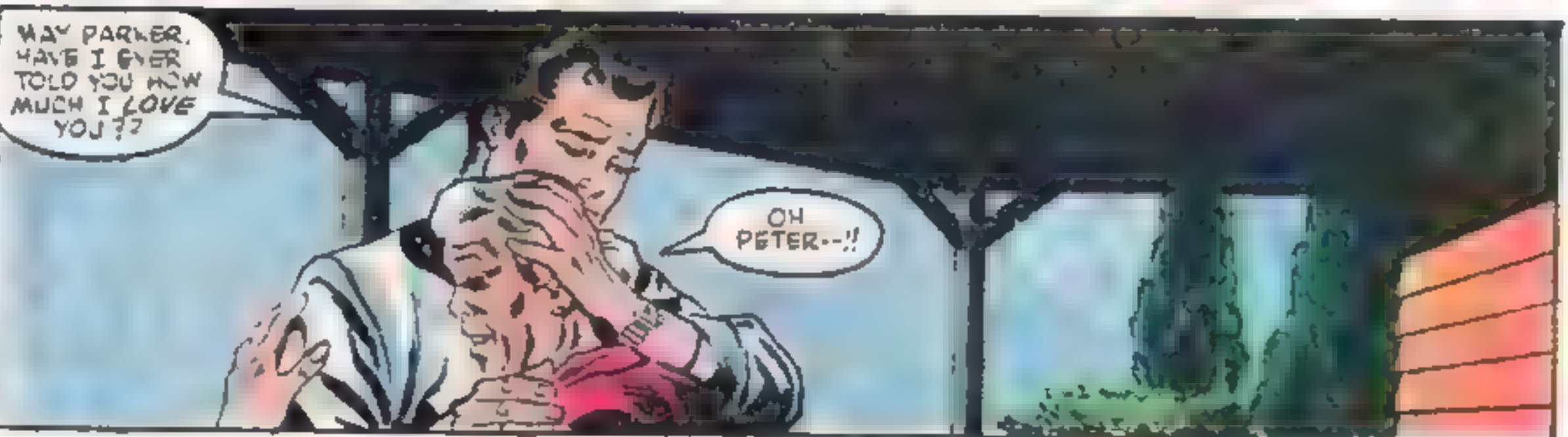
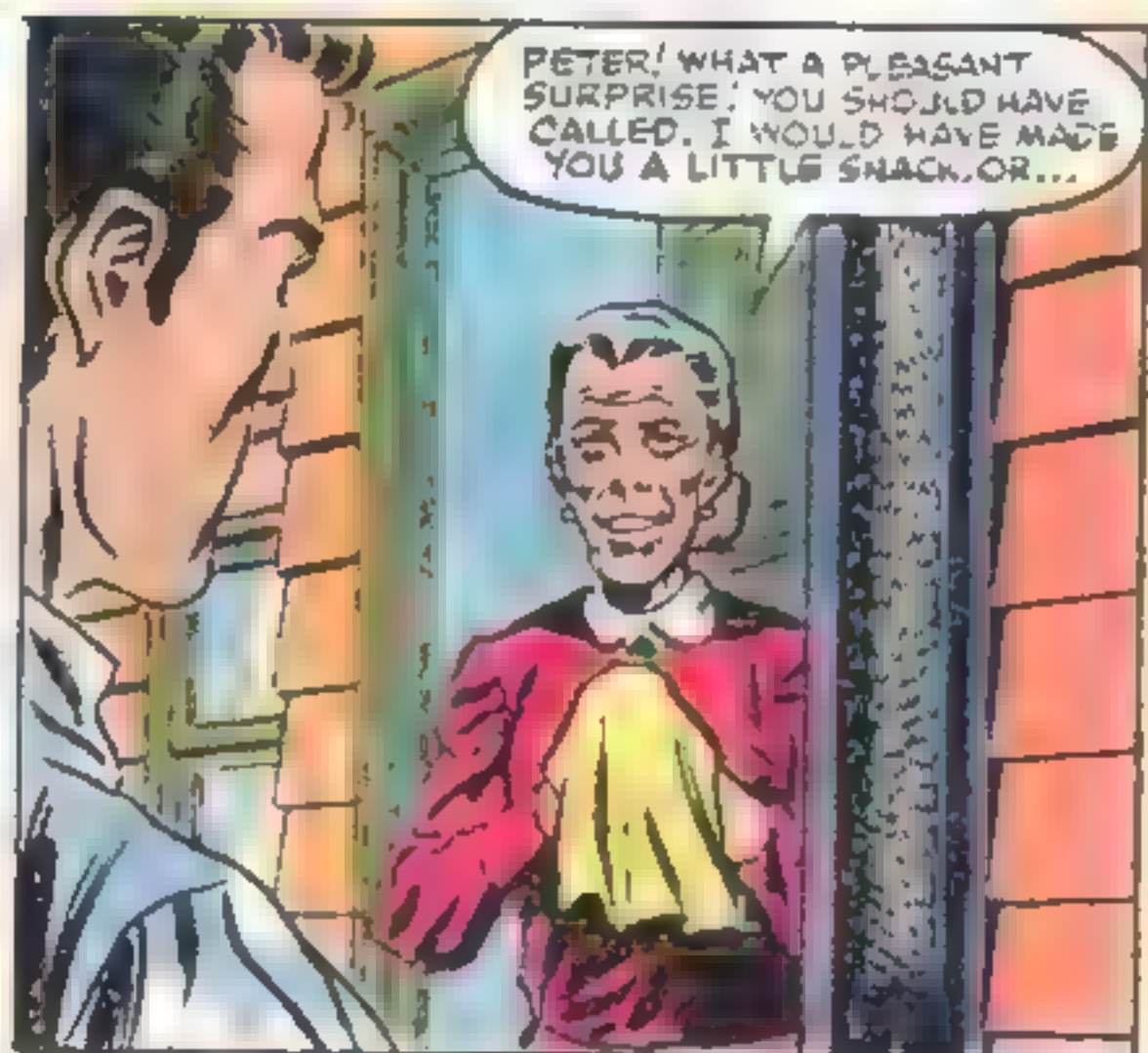
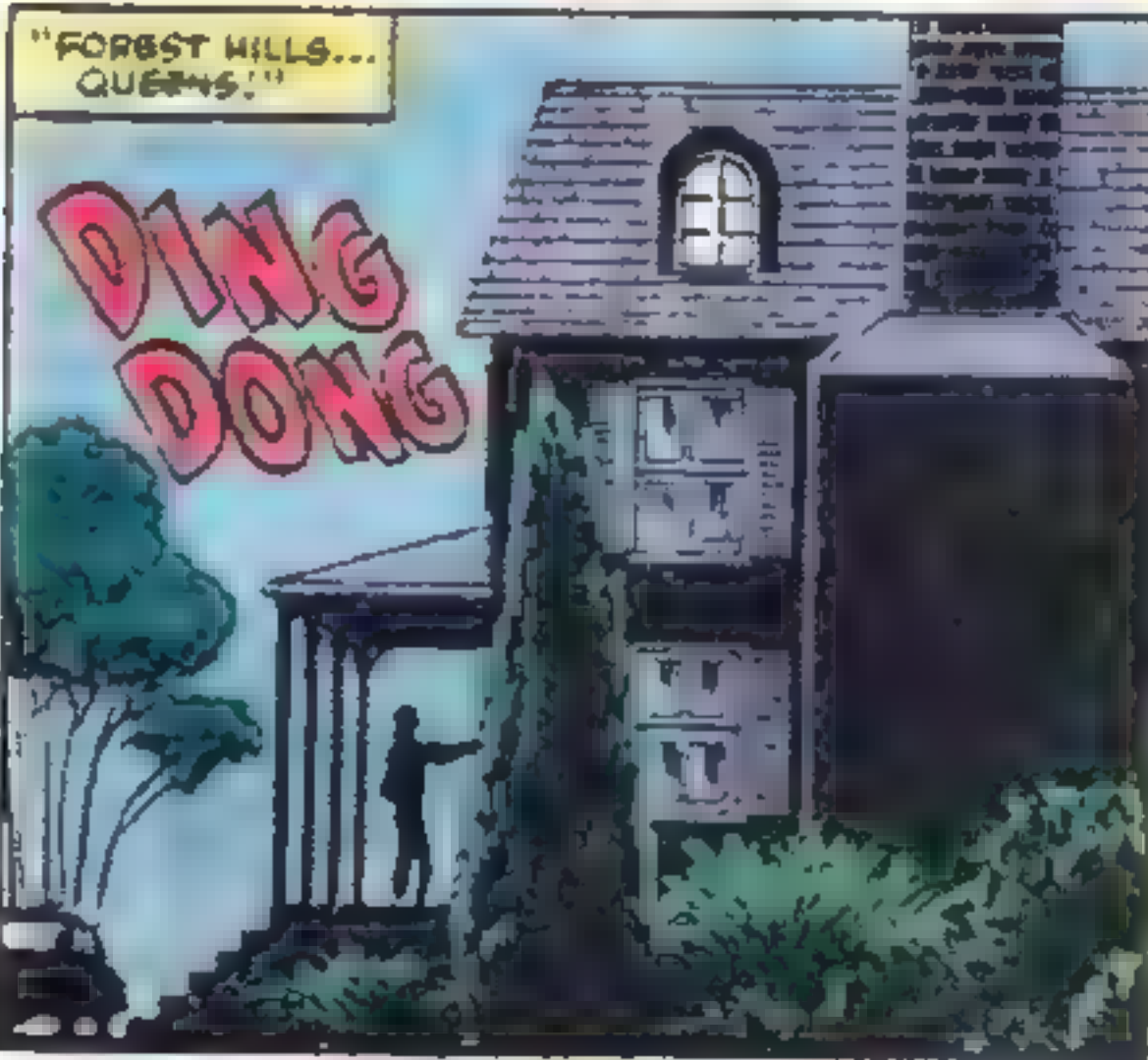
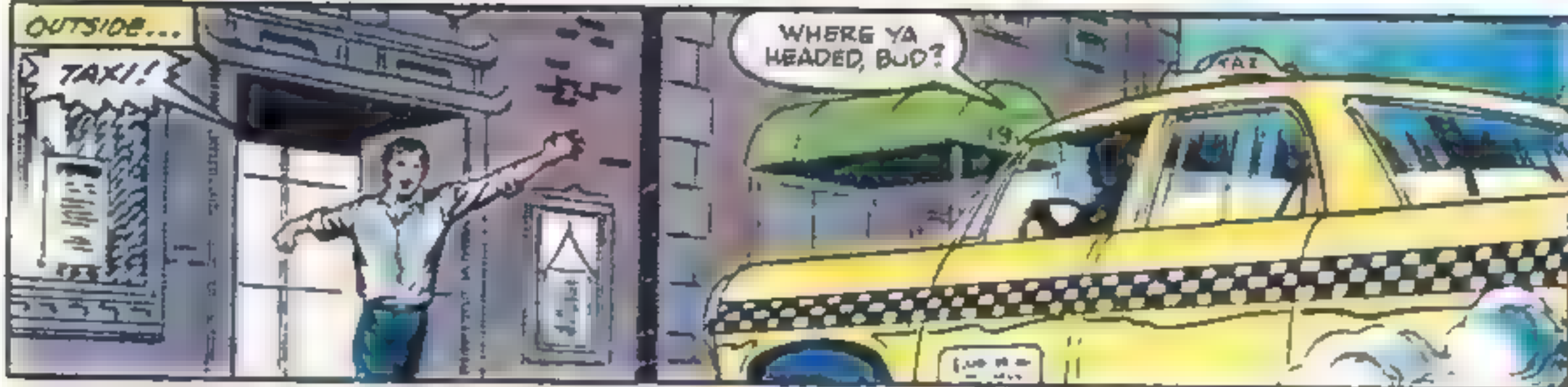






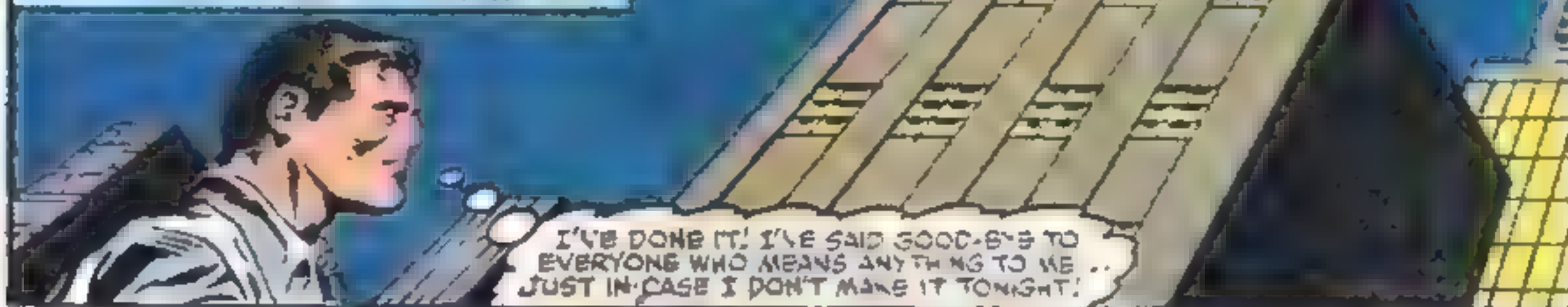








BEATING THE RUSH HOUR MADNESS PETER PARKER MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO MANHATTAN AND SOON STANDS AGAINT BEFORE COLUMBIA-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL...



I'VE DONE IT! I'VE SAID GOOD-BYE TO EVERYONE WHO MEANS ANYTHING TO ME... JUST IN CASE I DON'T MAKE IT TONIGHT!

I HAVE TO SEE ONE MORE PERSON!

IN A FLASHING ALLEYWAY THE YOUNG MAN DOES A WALK.



THEN KICKING OFF HIS SHOES HE LEAPS TO THE HOSPITAL'S EXTERIOR WALL.

AS IF HIS HANDS AND FEET WERE POSSESSED OF THOUSANDS OF TINY SUCTION CUPS HE CLINGS TO THE WALL--



--CLIMBING LIKE SOME HUMAN SPIDER.



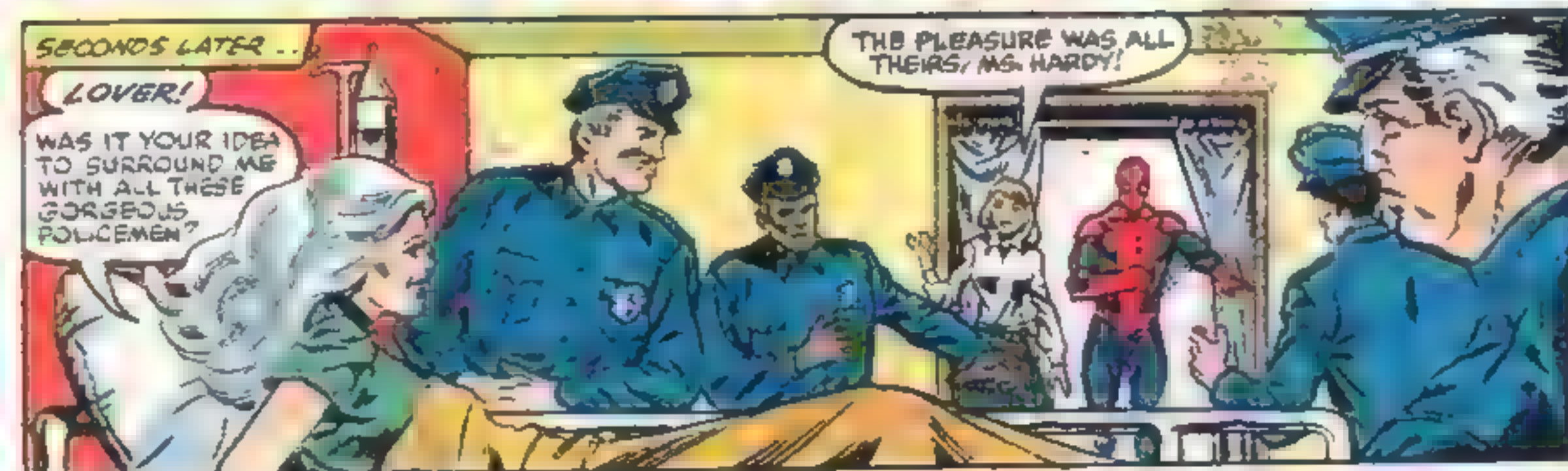
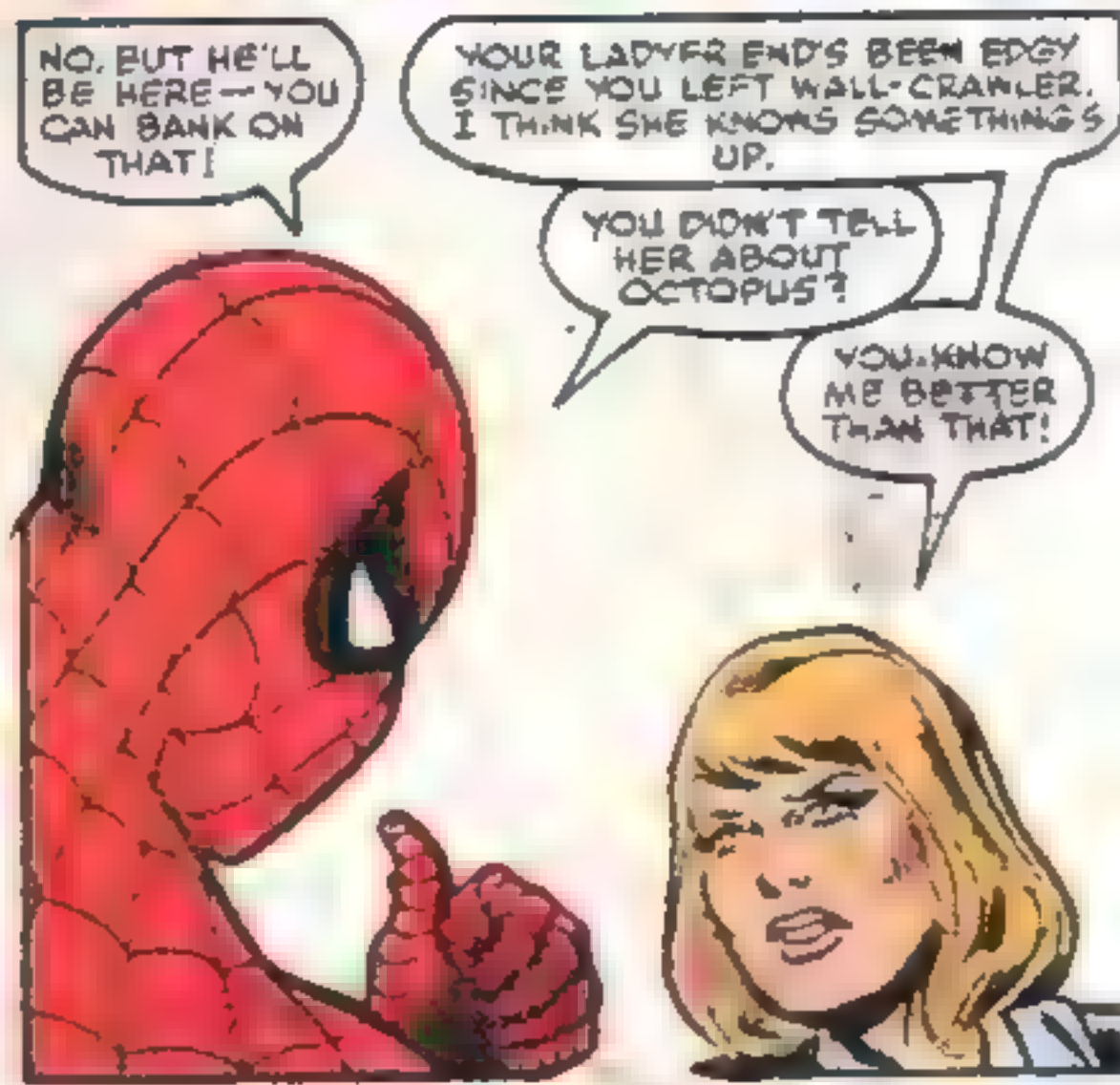
IN A FLASH THE LAST OF HIS STREET CLOTHES FLUTTERS TO THE GROUND AND THEN...



SKREET!











HOW ARE YOU FEELING, FELICIA?

ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE! YOU'VE BEEN GONE ALL DAY!

I--I HAD SOME THINGS TO DO.

BUT I'M HERE TO STAY.

TO STAY? FOREVER? YOU MEAN YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE ME-- I'LL ALWAYS HAVE YOU NEAR ME WHEN I NEED YOU? AND I DO NEED YOU!



I... LOVE YOU SO MUCH!

I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE MAKING YOU HAPPY!



LISTEN TO ME, FELICIA-- I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SAY EVERYTHING I'D LIKE TO...

WHY NOT, LOVER? I THOUGHT WE HAD ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD!

OR IS THAT WHY THERE ARE SO MANY POLICEMEN HERE?

IT'S DOCTOR OCTOPUS, ISN'T IT?

HE'S COMING BACK!?!?



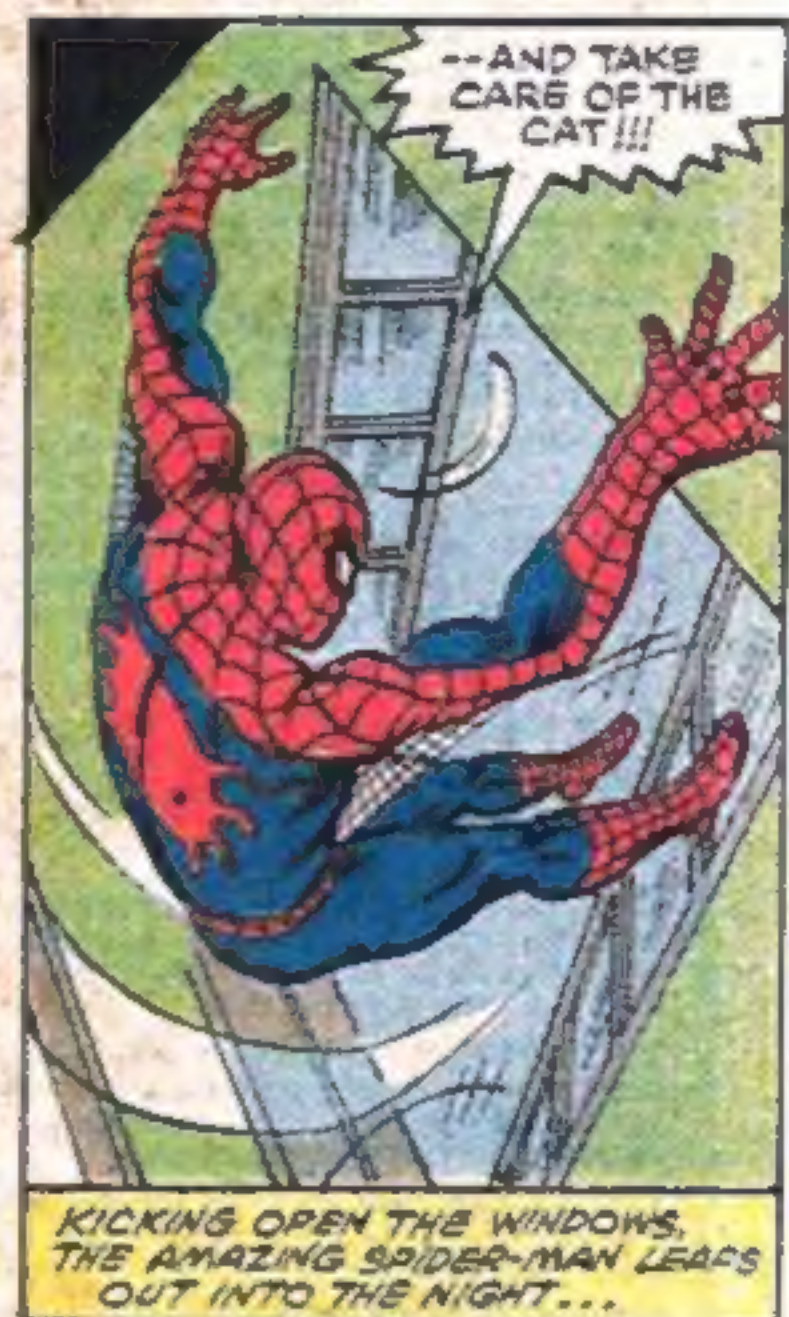
YES... BUT HE WON'T GET NEAR YOU! I WON'T LET HIM HURT YOU AGAIN!

FELICIA, I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY SECRETS BETWEEN US! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEARNED MY REAL IDENTITY...


GLOVED FINGERS START TO SLIP HIS MASK AWAY...









A dramatic comic book panel showing Spider-Man in his classic red and blue suit falling from a high-rise building. He is positioned diagonally across the frame, with his arms outstretched. A large, blue, segmented mechanical arm reaches down from the top right towards him. Below Spider-Man, a man in a green shirt is seen falling away from the building's edge. The background shows a city street with cars and other buildings. Two speech bubbles contain ominous dialogue.

THERE IS NO  
MORE TIME FOR  
FAREWELLS.

THERE IS ONLY  
TIME FOR DEATH!

TO BE CONTINUED!



Dear Tom,  
Thank you for one of the finest Spider Man stories that I have read in at least 10 years. "Waiting for Doctor Octopus" which appeared in PETER PARKER #72 was superb in every sense of the word (and in every art panel as well). From the stunning cover to the last panel of the last page it held my attention as few comics ever have.

While I have always been impressed with Bill Mantlo's writing I am becoming more and more impressed with Ed Hannigan's storytelling abilities. It seems to me that the Marvel artists I grew up with (Kirby, Ditko, Romita Sr., and the Buscemas) were able to tell a story with their pictures, but the people who followed them seemed to drift away from this aspect of comics. Well, those good old days are back now in the pages of PPTSS... and with a vengeance. Issue #72 was full of old Ditkoish touches, like Spidey's "flat" feet on pages 2 & 3, the masks on the wall of Ollie's room (page 7), the foot painting on page 6, and the "Sinister Six" (plus one). I also enjoyed how Spidey's webbing would appear and disappear and how the blue areas of his costume would occasionally turn black. However the best part of the book was the fight with "Doc Ock" in the fish bowl. If we old timers can't have Steve Ditko back, then Ed Hannigan is a viable substitute.

Robert J. Sodaro  
1167 Merritt Street  
Fairfield, CT 06432

Me, too!

Dear Spideyphiles:

I'll say one thing for PETER PARKER #72: It had one heck of a nice cover, possibly the nicest of all the "pop art" covers of the past few months. I'm sure sales will attest to that because in my area this issue sold out in all the specialty shops in practically no time. I will duly compliment Mr. Hannigan in a paragraph or two.

It seems like every time I stop buying this magazine that either the art or stories begin to improve so that I have to pick up the past couple of issues in order to see what I've missed. Well, you've done it to me again, but this time both the art and story are looking real good.

I read somewhere that Tom DeFalco was going to strive to reestablish the charm of the Lee and Ditko Spidey into this book. His staff must like that idea. Bill Mantlo's story successfully brings back that very charm along with a healthy dose of fun and a subtle mes-

sage. Nicest of all, he manages to do it in his own style. The same goes for Ed Hannigan's artistic style which only slightly resembles the simplicity of Ditko. Of course Ed's layouts are his own and they get better every issue. Oh yeah, his covers are real nice, too.

Michael J. Oliver  
5102 168th Street SW #B-7  
Lynwood, WA 980346

I think so!

People,

I'll be direct. PPTSS #72 really made my day. If every SPIDER-MAN comic were this well-conceived, your sales would go through the ceiling.

You see, no one element was what made this issue outstanding. It was an almost magical combination of script, art, inking, coloring, lettering and editing. Also, the "little touches," such as the Miller vignette, the tombstones, the fade-dot patterns giving a wash effect, helped.

John A. Wilcox  
40 Hales Court  
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Gang,

Re: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #72  
Rating System: \*\*\*\*\* Excellent, \*\*\*\* Great, \*\*\* Good, \*\* Fair, \* Yecch.

Story: As always, Bill Mantlo's writing is a bit too loquacious for my tastes. It's always as if he has no faith in his artist's ability to tell a story with pictures. In this issue, though, Bill thankfully kept it down to about 20 words per panel average. And the storyline itself was great! Plot: \*\*\*\*\* Dialogue: \*\*\*\*

Art: I'm gone on Ed's Hannigan's artwork. I love the dark and shadowy detail he often employs, and his technique of mixing panels. Let's see some more of that. And, as for his covers... Wow!!! He drafts some of the most eye-catching covers I've ever seen! This issue's was particularly good, especially the smashed title. Clever. Interior Art: \*\*\*\* Cover: \*\*\*\*

Coloring: As usual, Glynis Wein's talent is unsurpassed. \*\*\*\*\*

Lettering: Jim Novak is another all-time favorite. \*\*\*\*\*

Final Rating: \*\*\*\*\*1/2

Super (or, if you prefer, SPECTACULAR) job, guys! Keep it up!

Andrew Hermann  
836 Lewis Lane  
Rosemont, PA 19010

So what's the 1/2 star for, Andy - my editing?

Dear Tom,

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! Mere weeks ago I proclaimed PPTSS #71 to be the best Spidey story since AMAZING #200, and felt snug, safe, and secure in that judicious judgment. And now I sit dejectedly, feeling like nothing else than a skidmark on the road of life, after my utter humiliation at your hands. All right, you weasels, rats, and sycophantic scumbuckets - PPTSS #72 is the best!

Why? Perhaps it was Bill's script, which managed to twist the conventional punch-'em-up-saga to heights unprezeled since Flash Thompson squared off against Doc Doom. Perhaps it was aided by Moon Knight's cameo; that "water-tower artist," PLAYDUCK magazine; and the DAILY BUGLE's "Bongo" game (or was that "Zong Bongo", TRIBUNE fans?). Maybe it was the fact that both Gwen Stacy and Elektra are buried in Wildwood Cemetery; the Portzbie store; and that wonderful round panel where Spidey thinks what the public would do if he'd killed that kid. (Made me think I'd picked up MARVEL TALES by mistake, when I actually do so on purpose.) Maybe it was the cover, and the interior art, and... but no matter. It was ALL great.

Now, for my first-ever no-prize attempt: Why does Elwood's Candies and Groceries carry KA-ZAR, a direct-sales-only book (as evidenced by the litter of comics on the floor)? Simple: it's a huge store, as is shown, and probably caters to that elite, intellectual, and discriminating buyer known as a hard-core Marvel fan, and as such, makes sure to stock Marvel's fan-oriented comics. Heck, I'll bet Moon Knight was there buying comics just before Spidey spotted him! Adequate explanation?

David Allen  
Olney Central College  
5 Douglas Drive  
Olney, IL 62450

Sounds good to me, David! Consider yourself No-Prized!

Dear Editor:

PETER PARKER #72 has to be the funniest issue you have ever published! It virtually screams for a sequel. Have little "Ollie" perfect his web fluid, I want to see him again!

David P. Sailey  
121 Sprenger Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14211

Hmmm...

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

- Title of Publication: PETER PARKER #72
- Date of Filing: October 11, 1982 550 2-90
- Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
- No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
- Annual Subscription Price: \$7.50
- Location of Known Office of Publication: 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018
- Location of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher: 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018
- Names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018
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B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 164,590. Single issue nearest to filing date: 162,635. 2) Mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 7,872. Single issue nearest to filing date: 9,312.  
C. Total Paid Circulation: (Sum of B1 and B2): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 172,482. Single issue nearest to filing date: 170,947.  
D. Free Distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 700. Single issue nearest to filing date: 767.  
E. Total Distribution: (Sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 173,182. Single issue nearest to filing date: 171,714.  
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- Signed Ed Shukitt - Business Manager  
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- Signed Ed Shukitt - Business Manager